



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE

DEC - 9 1998

Mr. Jerry Madden  
State Representative  
Capitol Office  
PO Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Dear Mr. Madden:

Thank you for your letter of November 23, 1998 expressing support for the GNB Technologies, Inc. (GNB) petition for a Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) treatment variance for lead slag generated from their lead recovery process. We appreciate that lead recovery industries, such as GNB, provide a service that in turn promotes environmental protection by recovering lead from lead acid batteries and other high lead-containing materials. We also noted with interest the information you provided on the two-time nomination of GNB as a potential recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence as an environmental innovator.

At this point in our review process, we are continuing to evaluate the GNB petition on its technical merits. Shortly, we will be sending GNB a preliminary response indicating the additional information needed to conduct a full technical analysis. Our ability to finalize a determination on the GNB petition depends substantially on when that information is submitted to us and the completeness of that submittal. In addition, representatives of GNB have contacted my staff to arrange a meeting at which time the status of the petition and the additional information needs will undoubtedly be discussed. We will continue thereafter to work with GNB to ensure that the technical information needed to fully evaluate the treatment variance petition is well understood.

We very much appreciate your interest in the GNB petition itself and more broadly in ensuring that human health and the environment are properly protected. Your acknowledgment of GNB's commitment to protecting the safety of its employees and the surrounding communities is reassuring, and the Agency remains confident that the petition review process will be expedited as a result of GNB's timely response to our forthcoming information request.

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